



Hartford Police Department

SCOTT MACFARLAN
Chief of Police

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To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate Officer Cole Parker and his K9 partner Flash for Handler of the Year. Because of their outstanding commitment, dedication, teamwork, and determination to train to excellence, the citizens of the Hartford as well as the Officers of the Hartford Police Department have benefited in a safer community.

Throughout my 28-year career, I have had the opportunity to work with, supervise, and train with many K9 handlers. I have also had the opportunity as an assessor for accredited departments to observe their K9 teams. I have always been impressed with the dedication each one of these handlers have with their K9 partner and understand the importance of the time commitment required for effective deployments. Officer Parker and Flash have only worked together for 1 year and two months; however, have excelled in all trained disciplines, with remarkable successes during a vast amount of deployments this year.

In April of 2022, Officer Parker, was paired with K-9 Flash. They worked together for 5 months, and made an immediate impact within the community. Officer Parker was awarded the meritorious article find through your organization during this time span. Unfortunately, in September of 2022, while on duty, Officer Parker was struck by a motorist in his squad. The injuries that Officer Parker suffered in this crash required surgery and an extended time off work for recovery. It has been my experience that Officers who are out of work for a prolong periods of time due to injury sometimes return with a training lag that needs to be brought current. I would certainly expect this more so with a K9 team because of the nature of work. Officer Parker was out of work for over a year and did not return until October of 2023.

While I did anticipate a lag in activity due to the prolong absence, I was grateful that Officer Parker and Flash stayed sharp and were ready on day 1. Within the first month, were deployed 30 times and made 28 arrests.

During the 9 months since Officer Parker and Flash have been back, they have not missed a step, and have positively impacted the Hartford community in their work:

1. 160 Deployments
2. 121 Arrests
3. 18 apprehensions 1 bite apprehension 17 civil apprehensions
Drugs Seized:
4. 530 grams of cocaine
5. 2325 grams of fentanyl
6. 562 grams of marijuana
7. 400 grams of methamphetamine



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8. 5 successful tracks

Please see below for some of the notable work that Officer Parker and Flash have done in the last 9 months:

On 01/04/2024, the Hartford Police was requested by the Washington County Sheriff's Department for a vehicle pursuit where the operator had an extraditable warrant from Illinois. The vehicle had previously fled an attempted stop by State Patrol the night prior. After the suspect vehicle was successfully spiked, the operator continued to drive for a period of time while other officers followed. Because of the driver's unwillingness to stop after the tires were deflated, a Washington County Deputy was authorized to induce a vehicle stop. Immediately upon doing this, the driver fled the vehicle into a marshy area. This marshy area contained 8-foot-high thick grass, which required Officer Parker to carry K9 Flash. The subject reached a portion of the Rubicon River and entered into waist high water. Officer Parker followed and crossed approximately 75 feet of water, carrying K9 Flash. Once across, they noticed the subject now running on dry land. Officer Parker placed K9 Flash on land and gave the commands to apprehend the suspect, which Flash did. The subject began to fight with Flash attempting to harm him. Officer Parker was able to successfully subdue the subject while other officers assisted in handcuffing a dangerous fugitive.

On 02/21/2024, the Hartford Police was requested by the Washington County Sheriff's Department reference a subject that was dropped off at the hospital with a gunshot wound to the neck. The unknown male subject dropped her off at the emergency room and then fled the scene. Deputies with the Washington County Sheriff's Department were subsequently able to identify the suspect and take him into custody. The suspect was uncooperative and it was learned through the victim that the suspect had discarded the gun by throwing it out the car window while in the area of highway 45 and Paradise Drive. Detectives believed that the firearm used in this attempted homicide would be within a 4-mile radius. Officer Parker and Flash were deployed for an article search in an attempt to locate the gun. Prior to the search beginning, it was estimated that the gun would have been in the elements for approximately 13 hours. The proximity of the search was along highway 45 with heavy traffic, 52 degrees out, and through thick brush line. After an approximate 1-mile search of the ditch line, Officer Parker observed indication signs from his partner Flash. While searching the area, Flash placed his nose on the firearm which was under heavy brush and not seeable by the naked eye. The firearm was recovered along with .380 caliber rounds, which matched the casings recovered at the scene of the shooting.

On 04/25/2024, as part of our interdiction work in the City of Hartford, Officer Parker coordinated a multi-agency enforcement effort to combat dangerous drugs coming into our



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community. During this interdiction work, Officer Parker conducted a free air sniff with Flash on a stopped vehicle, which yielded 3 grams of heroin/cocaine. During a debrief of this subject additional information was gathered about the distributor of these drugs. On 05/20/2024, the Hartford Police Department was requested by the Washington County Sheriff's Office to assist with three anticipatory K-9 sniff search warrants related to his traffic stop on 04/25/2024. These search warrants removed from the street, 5.5 pounds of fentanyl, 1 pound of cocaine, 28,060.00 in cash, two firearms, drug paraphernalia, and significant amount of cutting agents. The street value of the drugs estimated at \$200,000 dollars.

On 05/21/2024, The Dodge County Sheriff's Department requested Officer Parker and Flash for a track. A male subject in their jurisdiction was in mental health crisis, left his car at a park, and went into the woods. The subject did state to law enforcement that he was hiding and would shoot the first person he came across. The subject's wife advised Law Enforcement that the household handgun was missing. The team tracked for approximately 23 minutes and covered .82 miles. The subject was located near a trail and upon seeing the Officers and K9, the subject surrendered without incident and a firearm was recovered.

On 06/11/2024, while on patrol, Officer Parker observed a vehicle belonging to a subject who had two extraditable felony warrants and who has been evading police for several months. When the suspect observed officers, he fled out of the rear entrance to his house in an unknown direction. Flash was deployed to track the suspect and was immediately on his track. While going through residential back yards citizen witness continued to inform Officer Parker that the suspect had ran through their yards. After tracking the suspect for 1.07 miles, Flash located the wanted suspect laying face down crawling in the woods near a park. Commands were given to the suspect to surrender or be apprehended by Flash, and the suspect chose to surrender.

These 5 deployments are an example of professionalism, hard work, training, and a commitment to excellence. While these cases highlight what a great asset to this community Officer Parker and Flash are, what is even more remarkable is Officer Parker's willingness to engage the public during question and answer opportunities, demonstrations, or building that personal relationship with the community. Many of these interactions as well as the work of Officer Parker and Flash have moved many community members to contribute financially to our K9 program because they too see how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated trained team. Officer Parker and Flash have also made themselves available to all shifts and flexes his duty time so that he and his partner Flash can provide education to the other officers, as well as complete interdiction work.

Respectfully,

Lt. James A. Zywicki

Hartford Police Department



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Martin R. Schulteis, Sheriff



MEMO

To: WLECHA Awards Committee
From: Det/Sgt Chris Killey
Date: August 13, 2024

Re: Hartford Police Department Officer Cole Parker and K9 Flash

As a former canine handler WLECHA member, and currently a supervisor assigned to the Washington County Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Enforcement Group (MJDEG), I wish to make the WLECHA Awards Committee aware of outstanding dedication and strong work demonstrated by Hartford PD Officer Cole Parker and his partner K9 Flash.

Officer Parker has routinely engaged in and coordinated criminal interdiction assignments in the City of Hartford and has assisted with several additional large scale interdiction events occurring throughout Washington County. In April of 2024, Officer Parker coordinated a criminal interdiction event which resulted in a traffic contact, canine deployment, and subsequent controlled substance arrest. Officer Parker, through his training and experience, rightfully recognized the circumstances of this incident likely spanned beyond the City of Hartford. Officer Parker made contact with the MJDEG and the investigation continued.

Ultimately, Officer Parker's traffic stop and the ensuing cooperative investigation of the MJDEG, resulted in three search warrants executed at three separate residences, spanning two counties. A kilogram level drug trafficking organization was defanged, their product, weapons, and spoils were seized which includes:

- \$27,000 US Currency
- 6 Firearms (one fully automatic)
- Approx 2.5kg of Fentanyl
- Approx 0.5kg of Cocaine Base (Crack)

This incident is just one of many that documents Officer Parker's dedication to the success of his canine partner, K9 Flash. I support Officer Parker's nomination by Lt. James Zywicki of the City of Hartford Police Department.

DEDICATED TO SERVE

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